

August 8, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Mayor Rudd with prayer and salute to the flag. In attendance: McKenzie, McClendon, Rudd, Edwards, and Harden.

Councilman McClendon made a motion to approve the July 11, 2022, minutes, second by McKenzie, 4/0.

At this time, Mayor Edwards joined the meeting.

Jamie Martin, Depot Committee, stated Depot Days will be held at the Depot and Depot Park on September 10. There will be rides, food, vendors, music, and presentations. Mrs. Martin also invited the Council to a ribbon cutting for the decapod mural located on the Depot building. Mrs. Martin will coordinate the ribbon cutting with the paper.

Pollie Lawhon, representing Polliewood, requested a voluntary annexation of the property located at 1902 Sopchoppy Highway. The parcel is currently split between inside and outside the city limits. Attorney Dan Cox stated there is no reason not to allow the annexation. The annexation will have to be advertised in the paper and letters sent to adjacent property owners.

City Clerk Ashley Schilling presented **Resolution No. 2022-08** to the Council - A Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of An Application For The Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) To The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection For Federal Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The resolution was read by title only. Mayor Edwards stated the \$50,000 grant, with \$0.00 matching funds, would go towards the development of Phase 1 (paving, parking lines, bike racks, resting pavilion, overflow parking for events) of Trailhead Park (old Mom's Restaurant). The park would be used as a gateway to Sopchoppy. Dewberry has agreed to engineer the project at no cost to the City. Applications are due by August 31.

Several citizens addressed the resolution. Elizabeth Carter, Friends of the Sopchoppy River, strongly supports the project. Nathan Lewis, former Councilmember, stated the property was acquired solely for parking. Mr. Lewis supports applying for the grant to create parking and making improvements to the area; however, he has concerns regarding additional aesthetics previously mentioned. Chris Brown lives near the property and stated a gateway would be the best use of the property, creating a large parking area for festivals, but concerned with installing asphalt and would like to hear other surfacing ideas.

A **motion to adopt Resolution 2022-08** was made by Mayor Edwards, second by Harden, 4/1. Vice Mayor Rudd was opposed, and Councilmember McKenzie went on record as being against a pavilion on the property.

Clerk Schilling presented **Resolution 2022-09** to the Council - A Resolution Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida, Amending The City Of Sopchoppy Administrative Manual Job Classifications And Salary Ranges And Providing An Effective Date. The resolution was read by title only. **A motion to approve Resolution 2022-09** was made by Edwards, second by Harden, 5/0.

Clerk Schilling presented **Resolution 2022-10** to the Council - A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida Authorizing The Execution Of The Florida Department Of Transportation Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Agreement, Park Avenue Repaving, FPID 449725-1-54-01. **A motion to approve Resolution 2022-10** was made by Mayor Edwards, second by Rudd, 5/0.

The Council held the **1st public hearing for Ordinance 2022-03** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida Vacating The City's Interest In Those Portions Of The Alley Lying Between Argyle Street And Sheldon Street In The Block Bounded By Faith Avenue And Orange Avenue, As Shown On The Map Of The Town Of Sopchoppy West Side, As Recorded In Plat Book 1 Of The Public Record Of Wakulla County, Florida. The ordinance was read by title only by Clerk Schilling.

The Council held the **1st public hearing for Ordinance 2022-04** - An Ordinance To Adopt The Operating Budgets For The General Fund Of The City Of Sopchoppy And The Water Fund Of The City Of Sopchoppy. To Provide A Reasonable Anticipated Revenue And Expenditure Schedule For The 2022-2023 Operating Year. The ordinance was read by title only by Clerk Schilling.

The financial and adjustment reports were approved by signature of the Council.

Staff requested approval to proceed with advertising for the additional Distribution Technician position and try to have someone hired by October 1 or soon thereafter. Council approved the request.

Attorney Cox is working on the design codes and suggested a workshop in early September. Attorney Cox also reminded the Council of the ethics training August 27, in Sneads.

Councilmember Harden asked who is responsible for maintaining the Curtis Mill School House located on the property of the City Park. Staff is responsible for the upkeep.

Councilman McClendon asked about the hydraulic study of the water system. Clerk Schilling reported a new model will be conducted next fiscal year (22/23). DEP mandates a study every 5 years.

Mayor Edwards reminded everyone of the upcoming trap and release of feral cats.

Vice Mayor Rudd asked what the next step is if the FRDAP grant is awarded. Attorney Cox stated Council will have to give Dewberry ideas to include in the grant elements.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m. Motion by McKenzie, second by Rudd.